

## We Need to Speak for the Trees

I am writing in support of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021, SB 414.

I bought my house for the trees...those in my yard, my neighborhood, my community, and along Forest Drive. Tall, stately, old-growth trees that made me feel as if I was living in a nature preserve. Trees that would enable me to realize a life-long dream of hosting my own bird sanctuary.

For several years, I lived the peaceful existence I had dreamed of in the cool shade of trees with a growing population of birds filling the air with their songs. At the height of the spring season, I deployed 17 bird feeders to accommodate my avian visitors.

Then, the developers arrived. Swaths of forests were replaced by one building after another. It soon became apparent that Forest Drive is destined to become a stretch of unending concrete, glass, and asphalt, changing the character of my neighborhood forever. To add insult to injury, the developers made no efforts to preserve any trees on the building lots and planted very few trees to replace the many that they removed.

With such a massive loss of habitat, my bird sanctuary has become an avian ghost town. This year, I deployed only 2 bird feeders. The bird songs I love so much have been replaced by traffic noise.

More than habitat for birds, trees are one of the most effective and least expensive means of fighting climate change. We cannot continue to remove them with impunity. Science shows us that the pace of climate change is accelerating. In order to mitigate its worst effects, we need to plant many more trees than are destroyed each year. And, we have to act NOW to have any hope of not passing along a world of nightmares to our children and grandchildren.

Lani Hummel

Annapolis